

Copy.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1895.

To the Chairman & Members of the Seaton Urban District Council.

Gentlemen.

I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1895.

There have been eighteen births & twenty eight deaths. This gives a death-rate of 21.6, but as two of the deaths were of persons here for the day only - one being a suicide & the other 'found drowned' - we may take the deaths as being twenty six, equal to a death-rate of exactly twenty per thousand of the resident population.

The number of deaths is the largest since the District was formed, but from the Table A, appended, it will be seen that none of them are in any way attributable to special local conditions. There are only two deaths of infants & two between one & five, whilst eight are over sixty-five. Of the sixteen deaths between twenty five & sixty-five six are from consumption. I can only say of this that it is a most exceptional record, as there were only seven deaths from this cause in the preceding ten years. Of the six, three were those of young men, who, having been absent from Seaton for some years, came back only to die.

We had an extensive outbreak of Measles in March, but only one death, a child of fifteen months. With the view of limiting its spread the schools were closed by my order from March 19th to April 19th. There was also a severe epidemic of Influenza in the Spring, but no case proved fatal. The one death from Measles was the only one from any of the zymotic diseases.

Though the total number of deaths is comparatively large, our combined Infant & Zymotic death-rate is again

remarkably low. That is the true test of the healthy condition of the district - In this respect Sealton has stood first in South Devon for 1893 + 1894 - Dr Harvey in his 'Summary of the Reports of the Medical Officers of Health for South Devon' says of us. "This small town occupies the premier position in Table I for the second year in succession." We shall undoubtedly occupy a very good position in his 'Summary for 1895'.

I have only received two notifications of infectious disease during the year - both erysipelas.

No complaint has been made to me of any grave nuisance.

I have made several informal inspections of the slaughter-houses, & of the sheds where dairy cows are kept. The former have been in better condition than on previous visits, but they yet remain - as Dr Reece described them; 'structurally unfit for their purpose' - The dairy sheds are better kept, but the dung heaps should be removed more frequently. - Milk is a ready carrier of disease germs, & should be surrounded by the most cleanly conditions from the time of milking to its distribution to the public.

I wish to recommend that steps be taken to cart away the heaps of town refuse from the orchard. - Such an accumulation is a source of danger, & would be especially so in the event of an outbreak of zymotic disease. It would be risky to disturb it during the hot months. It would therefore well to get it spread over the land during the next few weeks, if possible!

As the question of the sewer outfall is now engaging your attention, I need only urge that it be promptly & efficiently dealt with.

I append the Tables A + B, copies of which, together with a copy of this report are sent to the Local

Government Board & to the Devon County Council
as required by the act. Appended, also, are the
two notifications in which the sum of 5/- is due
to Mr G. E. A. Evans.

I am Gentlemen

Your obedient servant

H. A. Pattinson

Medical Officer of Health

Seaton 1st February 1896

Copy of

Report of Medical Officer of Health

for the
death return covering the week

for the year

1895

Quarter 7 1895 1896.